Looking back

The man who beat Baker Mayfield to be QB in high school discusses his former teammate.

Page 1B

Warm reception

OSU's James Washington won the Biletnikoff Award for being the nation's best college football receiver this year.

Page 1B

THE OKLAHOMAN

Friday, December 8, 2017
$1.50

REACHING MORE THAN 475,000 PEOPLE EACH DAY

NEWSOK.COM • OKLAHOMAN.COM

Higher ed requests $902M

If fulfilled, colleges would return to 2015 funding levels

BY K.S. MCNUTT
Staff Writer
kmcnutt@oklahoman.com

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education voted Thursday to request $901,897,659 in state appropriations for the next fiscal year, an increase of $128.3 million from the current funding level.

The request includes money to restore faculty and scholarships lost to recent budget cuts and to fully fund concurrent enrollment of high school students.

"It's expensive to run an educational system, but we can't look at it just as an expense," Chairman Ronald White, of Oklahoma City, said. "We have to look at it as an investment because it is the real economic engine of the state."

The request outlines the budget needs of Oklahoma's 25 public colleges and universities. The increase amounts to 16.6 percent, the same percentage cut from the higher education budget two years ago.

It was the largest percentage cut in state fiscal support that year in the nation, and resulted in the elimination of 800 to 850 faculty positions and more than 900 core class sections, Chancellor Glen Johnson said.

Oklahoma State University President Burns Hargis said the continuing cuts are like "slowly committing suicide."

"We've already limited our ability to be successful for the next decade," Hargis said. "Every year this goes on means we're farther and farther away from the promise that Oklahoma should bring."

Johnson said the budget proposal partially restores faculty positions eliminated over

SEE FUNDING, 2A

Remembering Pearl Harbor

Retired Navy Capt. John Keilty speaks during the Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony at the USS Oklahoma anchor in Campbell Art Park on Thursday in Oklahoma City.
[PHOTOS BY CHRIS LANDSBERGER, THE OKLAHOMAN]

MORE COVERAGE ON PAGE 7A

Pearl Harbor survivor Ivan Stewart lowers his head in prayer during the Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony at the USS Oklahoma Anchor in Campbell Art Park on Thursday in Oklahoma City.

An American Flag is placed on the on a symbolic grave during the Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony at the USS Oklahoma Anchor in Campbell Art Park in Oklahoma City on Thursday.

Members of Rolls to Wreaths salute the American Flag during the Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony at the USS Oklahoma Anchor in Campbell Art Park on Thursday in Oklahoma City.

OKLAHOMA CAPITOL

Special session to begin Dec. 18

BY RANDY ELLIS
Staff Writer
rellis@oklahoman.com

The Legislature will be called back for a second special session to address the state's budget shortfall on Dec. 18, Gov. Mary Fallin announced Thursday.

The Republican governor said details are still being worked out and she has not yet filed an executive order or issued an official call. That will come later, she said.

"Discussions are continuing with

SEE SESSION, 2A

Fed budget impasse would hurt Tinker AFB, officials say

BY RANDY ELLIS
Staff Writer
rellis@oklahoman.com

As the U.S. Congress struggled Thursday to resolve yet another budget impasse, Tinker Air Force Base officials have warned that failure to resolve the problem quickly could have major ramifications.

Cuts to flying hours, a civilian hiring freeze and another round of sequestration that would

SEE TINKER, 2A

TODAY'S PRAYER
Father of mercies and God of all comfort, You are our only hope in time of need. Amen.

Business	1C	Life	1D
Classified	1E	Opinion	8A
Comics	8E	Sports	1B
Deaths	6A	Stocks	5C

Weather, 6C
WARMER
H: 51 L:26

CUSTOMER SERVICE
Online:
oklahoman.com/account
Phone: 405-478-7171

Volume 126, 342 | 5 Sections

Copyright 2017
The Oklahoma Publishing Co.,
Oklahoma City
All rights reserved